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2006 DEC -5 P 12: 35

STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE

By: Susan C. Berger Deputy Attorney General Tel. (973) 648-4876

> STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE OF THE STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE

Administrative Action

SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF

THE CERTIFICATION OF:

CONSENT ORDER OF VOLUNTARY

THOMAS LUSCH

SURRENDER OF CERTIFICATION

LICENSE NO. CA00023100

TO PRACTICE ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners (hereinafter the "Committee"), upon receipt of information that Mr. Lusch had been arrested on February 18, 2006 for falsifying records and hindering apprehension and was again arrested on October 22, 2006 for possession of CDS (controlled dangerous substance).

Respondent at this time has agreed to the voluntary surrender of his certification to practice alcohol and drug counseling in the State of New Jersey in accordance with the terms of this Consent Order. The Committee finds the terms of this Consent Order to be adequately protective of the public interest and respondent, without any admissions, and desiring to resolve this matter without further proceedings;

IT IS, THEREFORE, on this H day of December, 2006, ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Respondent, Thomas Lusch shall immediately surrender his certification to practice alcohol and drug counseling in the State of New Jersey to be deemed a suspension of his certification and shall cease and desist from such practice. Respondent shall deliver his 2006-2008 biennial renewal certification (expiration date August 31, 2008), including his original wall certificate, certificate and wallet size credential forthwith to Ms. Elaine DeMars, Executive Director of the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee, P.O. Box 45040, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07101 simultaneous with the signing of this Consent Order.
- 2. Respondent shall not engage in any volunteer or uncompensated alcohol or drug counseling other than as a participant in 12 step-self help groups.

- 3. Respondent, Thomas Lusch shall not seek reinstatement of his certification for a minimum of one (1) year from the filing of the within Consent Order.
- 4. Prior to any appearance of respondent Thomas Lusch seeking reinstatement of certification, he shall provide the following documentation to the Committee demonstrating that he is sufficiently rehabilitated to re-enter the practice of alcohol and drug counseling:
- a. Documentation demonstrating that he has completed one (1) year of successful alcohol/drug recovery and sobriety and is presently enrolled in a structured after-care plan.
- b. Discharge summary from each facility in which respondent has participated in an inpatient or outpatient recovery program and a report demonstrating that respondent has successfully completed an inpatient recovery program.
- c. A written up-to-date report signed and dated by the qualified licensed mental health professional (with copy of the mental health professional's curriculum vitae) who was respondent's primary counselor during treatment and recovery. The report shall include, at a minimum, evidence documenting respondent's compliance with a plan of recovery and a clinical opinion that the respondent is fit and competent, and sufficiently rehabilitated to re-enter the practice of alcohol and drug counseling.

- d. Copies of the results of one year of a minimum of weekly random urine screens which shall include alcohol testing and testing for other drugs of abuse.
- e. A letter from each of respondent's treating physicians listing all medications that are currently prescribed for the respondent, including the length of time each physician has been prescribing each medication, quantity and frequency prescribed, and reason for the prescription(s).
- f. A statement signed and dated by the respondent representing that there have not been any "criminal actions" other than those mentioned in the first paragraph of this order against him in New Jersey or any other jurisdiction since the surrender of his certification. "Criminal actions" includes arrests, convictions for criminal offenses and/or motor vehicle offenses regardless of whether the charges/summonses were dismissed, he was found not guilty, plead guilty or entered a plea bargain. Additionally respondent shall submit a statement of the status of the criminal matters mentioned in the first paragraph of this order. The signed statements must include the following language above his signature:
 - "I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are wilfully false, I am subject to punishment."
- g. A letter outlining the type of employment, occupation or other activity respondent engaged in during the time respondent's certification was surrendered.

6. In the event respondent seeks reinstatement and provides documentation satisfactory to the Committee that he is sufficiently rehabilitated to re-enter the practice of alcohol and drug counseling, respondent shall appear before the Committee, if so requested by the Committee. During the appearance before the Committee, the burden shall be on respondent to demonstrate that he is fit and competent to practice alcohol and drug counseling, is sufficiently rehabilitated and has complied with the terms of this Consent Order.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

Edward Reading

Committee Chair, LCADC

I have read and I understand the terms of this Order and agree to be bound by it. I consent to the entry of this Consent Order.

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